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The Spectator

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Posse Plus Retreat tackles issues of national divisions

by Gabriela Foster '18
News Contributor

This past weekend, Feb. 3-5, the Posse Foundation hosted the annual Posse Plus Retreat (PPR) at the Radisson Hotel in Utica, NY. The retreat consisted of a series of themed group discussions and workshops that created safe spaces for dialogue amongst Posse scholars and the greater Hamilton community, with more than 100 non-scholars in attendance.

In light of growing national partisan divisions, the focus topic was, "Us vs. Them? Division, Community and Identity in American Society." Attendees attempted to answer difficult social questions revolving around the idea of growing factionalism stemming from racial, political and economic motivations.

Chanel Summerset '18 (Miami Posse 5) described how the workshops facilitated substantive discussions: "You are supposed to spend a weekend with this group of people trying to initiate and promote conversation about these hard topics. Then, we are supposed to go back to campus and continue those conversations with the rest of the Hamilton community." Though these deliberations proved difficult, they are necessary to promoting a constructive community discourse.

Posse scholars addressed difficult questions including: Why does an "us vs. them" culture exist? Is it becoming more difficult to create a substantive dialogue between conflicting groups? Additionally, the groups evaluated the effectiveness and practicality of compromise, and what violent divisions mean for the future of American society as a whole.

According to Director of Opportunity Programs at Hamilton Phyllis Breland, "The discussions went very well, participants were engaged and energized. It is always a powerful accomplishment, when people can feel validated through the expression of their ideas. I have received several emails expressing thanks for the experience."

With the goal of creating a positive impact for the campus community in mind, discussions included over 190 Hamilton students, faculty and administrators. David Dacres '18 (Miami Posse 5) spoke to the importance of having all members of the Hamilton community involved: "I really enjoyed the amount of faculty members that stayed throughout the two days."

PPR initiated the conversation by having participants identify groups, organizing themselves into groups they belong to and don't, and analyzing how these groups are perceived by others. Additionally, the groups examined the positive and negative aspects of such stark societal divisions, and how these divides impact participants personally.

Closing activities revolved around brainstorming ideas for bringing the productive discussion in Utica back to the Hill. Before leaving, participants divided themselves into groups based on varying personal distinctions, such as race and gender. After splitting into respective groups, each group was paired with another to discuss communication techniques and perceptions moving forward.

One closing event stood out to Summerset, recalling the closing activities as one her favorite memories from the retreat. Participants sat in a circle, exchanging positive statements about one another. "After such an emotionally intense weekend, that is a much needed mental break. Also, it gives you the feeling that you may have moved someone with something you said or did without even noticing," Summerset stated.

This year's PPR marks the 16th year that Hamilton College has partnered with the Posse Foundation. Not only is PPR an opportunity for community members to engage in meaningful discussion, but it also promotes meaningful connections between students, faculty and administrators.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOWARD DEPASS

Attendees participate in a series of discussions on diversity.

Janet Halley gives controversial lecture on sexual assault

by Emily Eisler '17
News Editor

On Feb. 3, Janet Halley, the Royall Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, presented the third and final lecture in her series of presentations "Rethinking Campus Sexual Assault," sponsored by the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center. This lecture, "Against Affirmative Consent," nearly filled the Bradford Auditorium with students, faculty, staff, and outside community members, many of whom had strong feelings on the topic they expressed to Halley during and after the talk.

A main focus of Halley's presentation was her perceived "problem" of over-inclusiveness in the legal definition of sexual assault on campus, which she feels victimizes innocent men when they are accused of assault in certain manners. This is why she advocates against affirmative consent in legal definitions of sexual assault, though she did state several times that she believed affirmative consent should be a social norm. Affirmative consent is defined as explicit, voluntary, and informed consent by both partners to engage in a sexual act. According to Halley, affirmative consent is a great social concept, but a flawed legal one.

Halley also began her speech by defining sexual assault or harassment as sexual contact that is "unwanted..." "sufficiently severe or pervasive" in the eyes of a "reasonable person." She went on to explain the different forms of consent, specifically performative versus subjective consent as opposed to positive consent and constrained consent. She also expressed her concern that those accused of sexual assault who are expelled from schools have their lives ruined, a trend she believes to be all too prevalent. According to a 2013 report by the United States Justice Department Office on Violence Against Women on the resolutions of 759 sexual assault cases at 120 colleges and universities, 56 of said cases resulted in expulsion, or 7.4 percent.

Title IX Outreach Coordinator Corinne Smith '17 said of the lecture series, "I think Janet Halley's talks provide a unique lens into what she sees as some of the issues that make Title IX Policy and Procedure a challenging area of work. Therefore, I hope that her lecture series has involved those in the wider Hamilton community in a conversation centered around creating the best policy and procedure to serve the entire campus. I am hopeful that Janet Halley's talks will engage more people in this important and necessary ongoing discussion." Many people in attendance took issue with Halley's message. Audrey Darnis '18 stated about the presentation, "There was a lot that bothered me about Janet Halley's presentation, but the one thing that she said that has particularly been troubling me was when she said those who claim that sex must include continuous affirmative consent could never possibly have had sex themselves, as it is 'impossible to have good sex with continuous affirmative consent.' People laughed. I was infuriated."

Dr. Penelope Dane, Lecturer in Communication, had her own take on Halley's lecture, "Early on in her talk, I questioned her ethos. The title of her talk, "Against Affirmative Consent," was itself incendiary. She claimed that she knew nothing about Hamilton College, yet a *Harvard Spectator* article titled 'A Call to Arms,' May 28, 2015, states that Halley met with the Hamilton College's president to discuss Title IX policies. But, as a scholar and writer who is deeply committed to restorative justice practices, I think she had an important point that there needs to be an option for handling sexual assault and harassment cases outside the confines of our current legal system. I wish she had explored how relying on subjective experience as evidence challenges some of our deeply held western cultural beliefs such as a) there is one objective truth; b) that objective truth is more valuable than subjective experience; c) that justice is the natural and likely outcome once we've uncovered the "objective" truth. I think there was potential for her argument to go there, but that is a radical place to go. It is far easier to vilify feminists with ad hominem attacks such as her crass joke that feminists don't have sex or her suggestion that anyone who disagrees with her doesn't believe that men have feelings. Halley claimed that believing women's subjective experience of sexual assault—something feminism has been instrumental in bringing about—threatens the very foundation of the United States' legal system. Perhaps it does and perhaps that is why rape cases are notoriously difficult to prosecute and why in the rare cases assailants are found guilty that sentences—such as Brock Turner's—are short and hardly seem to fit the crime.

Overall, I found her argument—current Title IX sexual misconduct policies reflect a misguided radical feminist agenda which both infantilizes women and gives them too much power while penalizing men for "bummer sex" – lacking solid evidence. Her connections between Catherine MacKinnon's work and sexual misconduct policies from California were spurious at best. Court cases are not built on hypothetical scenarios, yet "hypos" formed the meat of her argument. I would have liked to have seen data or even one case study to back up her claim that male college students in California are being inadvertently demonized by Title IX policies. Is it possible? Of course. But without concrete evidence, I remain unconvinced.

Janet Halley has a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of California Los Angeles and a J.D. from Yale Law School. She is the author of the books Don't: A Reader's Guide to the Military's Anti-Gay Policy as well as Split Decisions: How and Why to Take a Break from Feminism. She teaches family and gender law as well as courses dealing with the intersection of social and legal theory.

Hamilton alumna speaks to College's immigration policy

by Madeleine Maher'18
Managing Editor

As promised in President David Wippman's Jan. 30 email, Immigration Attorney Helen Konrad '84 facilitated an informational summary of events followed by a question and answer session regarding President Donald J. Trump's Executive Order and Immigration Ban. Konrad, a director at immigration practice group McCandish Holton, P.C., cleared up some of the confusion around where the nation's immigration policies currently stand.

"I don't recall any time when legal issues were so prominent in the news since Watergate," claimed Konrad, who expertly translated the news around Trump's order from difficult "legalese" into terms that the general public could understand.

To start off her info-packed session, Konrad laid out the whats, hows and whys of events leading up to the order. After President Trump took office, he was tasked with figuring out how to legally follow through with the unconstitutional promises made during his campaign. His solution? Draft several executive orders depicting immigrants as the villainous downfalls of economic prosperity. Following his orders for "The Wall" and "Interior Enforcement Increase," Trump signed an executive order "Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Entry Into the United States." The order imposed a travel and entry ban on anyone "from" the Muslim majority countries of Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen at 4:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27.

Konrad then explained why the ban would initially have a 90-day impact. Trump demanded that, within the first 30 days following the order, the government had to gather a list of every country that fails to comply with the United States' requests for information. If these nations do not provide Trump with his requested information, they will get added to the list of banned countries. The order also pledged to cut the quota for Syrian refugees in the United States and pledged to give precedence to immigrants of "religious minority" from Muslim majority countries.

If you are grappling with what it means to be "from" one of these seven countries, you are not alone. Konrad explained that Trump failed to send a copy of the order to the Department of Homeland Security the U.S. Citizenship Immigration Service, and the Department of State before he headed home for the weekend. Once chaos ensued in airports across the country, the White House clarified that Trump wanted "from" to stretch "as far as it can possibly go and wider." In other words, he wanted visitors, green card holders and visa holders alike to get stopped, detained and sent back to where they originally flew out of (whether or not that was their home country).

At this point in her lecture, Konrad made one thing abundantly clear: as a federal law, the Executive Order implements uniform immigration laws in every state. With that in mind, the states began brainstorming ways to lift the ban.

Amidst the confusion that had taken over airports, "the branches that don't answer to the crazy man," finally stepped in. The ACLU, congressional members and local attorneys flocked to airports around the country and issued emergency motions to lift the ban one person at a time. The first block of the ban came out of New York State on Jan. 28. Later that same night, Boston did one better and placed a hold on the Executive Order at Logan International Airport for seven days. The Department of State fired back with an order to cancel the visas of anyone and everyone who fell subject to the order, whether they are on U.S. soil or not. They also issued a 90-day hold on visa applications from any of the seven countries.

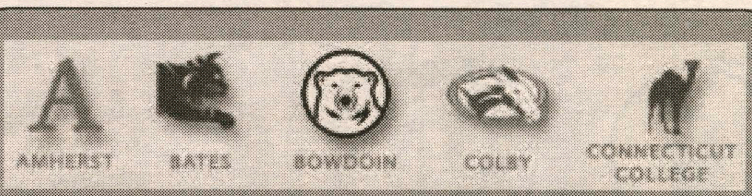
At this, Washington State Solicitor General Noah Purcell put his foot down. He drafted a letter to Attorney Generals across the country imploring that they stand together and fight the unconstitutional immigration ban at the state level. Despite the letter's underwhelming response, Purcell did not give up. As a man who knows his way around Supreme Court issues, Purcell headed to the nation's capital and mapped out how and why Trump's executive order is unconstitutional. First and foremost, the order discourages freedom of religion by giving precedence to Christian immigrants from the seven countries. Secondly, the order violates due process and strips humans of their property right by taking away their visas and greencards.

Purcell's arguments captured the attention of the Minnesota State Court, who several days later, ruled a ban on the visa cancellation order, as the order caused irreparable harm to the state by removing many state employees, particularly in their universities. As Konrad reminded us time and time again throughout the presentation, executive orders must be implemented uniformly across states in order to stand, so the ruling put a hold on the executive order across the country.

With increasingly passionate speech, Konrad explained that the movement for banning the visa cancellation order picked up traction across several states. The presidential administration called for an appeal of the decision to block the order. Now in the 9th Circuit, the case remains over whether or not it is constitutional for President Trump to issue an order that cannot be rebuked by individual states. If the 9th Circuit rules in favor of appeal, the case will most likely make its way to the Supreme Court.

Konrad's impassioned gestures and fiery whit made the fact-packed 45 minutes fly by. While her disproval of Trump and his policies snuck into her tone and delivery, she did not let her personal political views skew the facts. To wrap up the hour, Konrad answered questions about international student employment after college, traveling with a visa and navigating precarious political discussion in public settings.

In her final few minutes, she shared an anecdote about a man from Syria with whom she worked in the first few days following the executive order. While walking down the streets of Georgetown, the man was approached by a stranger and slapped across the face. Rather than retaliate in fear, he decided to get to know the stranger and to let the stranger get to know him. In broken English, he explained to Konrad; "I did not want this man to hurt me again, so I made him my best friend."



NESCAC NEWS

by Emily Eisler '17
News Editor

Bates College experiences temporary shutdown as result of weather

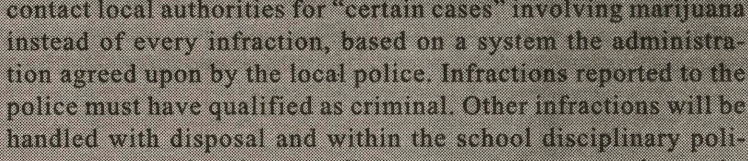
On Jan. 24 due to icy weather conditions, many of Bates' administrative offices were closed until employees were able to reach campus around noon that day. All employees categorized as "nonessential" were instructed not to come into work that morning (although the dining hall and library were open throughout the day), while professors could decide on their own whether to hold classes. This was one of the first times Bates had to close or delay at all due to weather. After examining the weather, the college's Senior Emergency Response Group made the call to delay opening.

Colby's plans to expand residences to downtown Waterville under examination by town

The proposed residential complex would house 200 students as well as a retail space on the lower floors and some faculty residences. They would ideally open the complex for the Fall 2018 semester. Colby bought the complex for $300,000 last year, though the sale is still in progress. So far the city government has not found any unusual aspects of the property and the school expects the residence to develop as planned.

Williams revises their marijuana policy

Due to the legalization of marijuana use in Massachusetts, Williams College recently announced that the college will only contact local authorities for "certain cases" involving marijuana instead of every infraction, based on a system the administration agreed upon by the local police. Infractions reported to the police must have qualified as criminal. Other infractions will be handled with disposal and within the school disciplinary policies. The school will not totally permit marijuana use due to the drug's status as criminal under federal law.



Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative connects with the Oneida Indian Nation

by Rylee Carrillo-Wagner '19
News Editor

Before Hamilton College was Hamilton College, it was the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, founded by Samuel Kirkland with the intention of being a school for Anglo-American and American Indian students to study together. The Oneida Nation community gifted the land to Kirkland for free in order to create the school. However, when the school was finally up and running, only two students were American Indian; by the time Kirkland passed away, there were no American Indian students in attendance. In 1812, the Hamilton-Oneida Academy became chartered as Hamilton College, leaving little remembrance of Hamilton's founding history.

In response, last spring Christina Florakis '19 and Lilly Pieper '18 began to develop an initiative to remember this history; this fall, the two founded the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative. Pieper's idea for the name came from the friendship between Chief Shenandoah and Samuel Kirkland. Shenandoah gifted Kirkland this land with the intention of creating a co-learning space for their two communities. The two are now buried beside one another, per Shenandoah's request. Florakis commented that "we're basically trying to do what they intended to do in the first place," and emphasizes the two main goals of the initiative: "to raise awareness of our history—to be aware and *appreciative of the past*—and to connect with the Oneida community." Florakis adds, "It's pretty much a historical disgrace so we're trying to fix that."

Students Molly Clark '19, David Gagnidze '20 and Cedar Weyker '17 have all joined Florakis and Pieper on the Initiative's e-board. All members emphasize the vital role which Chaplain Jeff McArn, the club advisor, has played in developing the group and creating a relationship with the Oneida Nation community. Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Meredith Moss also aided the initiative by debriefing the group on the college's historical relationship with the Oneida Nation, providing insight into the administration's perspective as well. Gagnidze commented, "I think we owe it to Hamilton itself to know its history… we can't separate it from the Oneida community—this is their land that they gave to us."

On Friday, Feb. 3, a group of about 30 Hamilton students, three faculty members, one staff member and some of their families gathered together. They loaded into jitneys, other college vehicles and personal cars to head over to the Oneida Nation reservation a mere twenty minutes away from campus to 20 in the Nation's bi-monthly social dance. After the dance Florakis reflected, "I was tentative at first—we had more Hamilton students than Oneida Nation community members—but they were so accepting and welcoming! They gave an intro for us and throughout the night everyone I talked to expressed how appreciative they were that we came and that we care." Gagnidze added, "This beats any party on campus… it was like you were going into their family… because of their welcoming gesture to allow to dance and share in their tradition. They understood how significant it was. I felt like I was a part of their culture almost… it was a very intimate setting… I think we owe it to them to welcome them here too."

Welcoming the Oneida Nation community members here is in fact a high priority for the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative. The board members, along with McArn, met with Kandice Watson, director of education and cultural outreach for the Oneida Indian Nation, to hear her perspective on how the initiative can have the most positive impacts possible. Watson suggested a co-mentor program with the Oneida youths. She explained that many Oneida Nation members used to have a government stipend, so going to school or having a job was not necessary. However, members can currently only receive the stipend if they are employed or are a full time student. Consequently, many youth members are now left without an education or professional skills. Watson suggested that they could pair up with Hamilton students who could show them the resources available on campus, such as the Career Center, in order to connect with them and be a source of motivation.

Florakis explains, however, that the board also thought that while "mentorship is a good idea… we want a co-learning space. A space where we can learn together. We can teach them about our resources but also learn from them about their history and culture." Gagnidze added that "we want them to come on campus to make them comfortable—they don't really feel welcome here… as result of old relationships with previous administrations. We hope to get them motivated, get their perspective changed and show them that Hamilton is actually a resource for them." Gagnidze also commented that "you go to college and it's a bubble from the space around it… colleges shouldn't be promoting this sense of separate entities. This expands the scope of students' experiences, it teaches us and is a great opportunity to have a cross cultural experience."

All of the e-board members share the belief that connecting with the surrounding indigenous population is vital. Florakis noted that Watson "informed us that there's a large want in the community for Hamilton to connect with Oneida but no action has been taken before." Weyker also points out the lack of conversation around the political issues embedded within Hamilton's foundation. She explained that "it's a legacy that these kind of colleges built off of boarding schools for American Indians… we can take classes on colonialism and American history and conveniently ignore our own part in it." Florakis contributes, "there's apathy towards different communities that's directly related to how we deal with history… Oneida's been waiting for Hamilton in a sense," to recognize that history and reconnect with that knowledge in mind.

The group has a long term goal to get "the administration to recognize Hamilton's history and create a structure to help Oneida members go to Hamilton," but for now, the group is seeking more recognition on campus. They have developed a Facebook page, are planning to attend more social dances to allow more Hamilton students to partake in the experience, and are starting their co-learning program this semester. In fact, this Saturday, Feb. 11, they are hosting a sensitivity training in hopes to enable students to create, in Weyker's words, "a positive relationship as a non-native person, preparing and educating you as a colonizer… and developing practices that will lead to a positive experience."

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Tuesday, January 31

6:42 P.M.	Smoke Detector – Kirkland Residence Hall

Tuesday, January 31

10:31 P.M.	Smoke Detector – Bundy West

Wednesday, February 1

8:52 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
8:40 P.M.	Animal Complaint – Burke Library
10:57 P.M.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Thursday, February 2

8:45 P.M.	Electrical Issue – South Campus
9:24 P.M.	Mechanical Issue – McEwen Dining Hall
10:20 P.M.	Noise Complaint – Bundy West
10:53 P.M.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Friday, February 3

2:13 A.M.	Failure to Comply – Fieldhouse
8:52 P.M.	Noise Complaint – Eells House

Saturday, February 4

12:43 A.M.	Investigate – Tolles Pavilion
12:49 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Tolles Pavilion
1:46 A.M.	Area Check – Wellin Museum
1:50 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Campus Safety Office
2:23 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Tolles Pavilion
11:21 P.M.	Area Check – Dunham Hall

Sunday, February 5

1:09 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Sadove
1:21 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Sadove
1:44 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

In Favor of Intellectual Diversity

Straying from its usual panoply of liberal visiting lecturers, the Hamilton Community has invited speakers with unexplored takes on commonly discussed campus issues this semester--and, importantly, students have been attending.

Wall Street Journal Columnist Kimberley Strassel came to the Hill in January to lecture on her new book, The Intimidation Game: How the Left is Silencing Free Speech. She advocated for more conservative conversation on college campuses, walked us through the history of free speech in America and excoriated the left for their "intimidation tactics" when confronting the conservative agenda. We covered this event as we would any other news story. Surprisingly, a slew of opinion articles that either defended, challenged or criticized Strassel's argument emerged in response. It is heartening to see students engaging with these issues and challenging one another. While not all debates have been diplomatic, they have nonetheless encouraged the growth of innovative ideas and solutions in these politically tumultuous times.

Janet Halley's lecture series was attended both by people who agreed with her message and by those who objected to her stance on sexual assault and sought to challenge the solutions she proposes. Despite the variety of views in the room, students and faculty alike held a respectful discussion with Halley following her presentation. When it comes to an issue as divisive on this campus as sexual misconduct, it is encouraging to see students exercise their agency to question the existing system, as well as challenge norms while trying to understand opposing views. At the same time, this generally liberal campus is not bending to normalize what we as a community find unjust in favor of working together. The community continues to act, to protest issues they feel are important and to fight against social and moral ills. During a political age of rampant polarization and hyperpartisanship, it remains critical to stand our ground and hold onto our values while continuing to have an open mind.

Echo chambers, controlled environments where one is mostly exposed to similar opinions and worldviews, are becoming a significant hurdle to the discourse needed for progress to occur in this country. Bringing speakers whose perspectives differ from the mainstream is a crucial step to fostering a culture of open dialogue and respect. As we live through a political era that often challenges our fundamental values, it is essential to strengthen the foundations upon which these values are built. This process can only occur when we challenge our views and acknowledge the existence of others.

Correction:
In a Feb. 2, 2017 article on changes in volunteering in Utica ("SHINE volunteers tutoring at sites in Utica, new and old"), *The Spectator* reported that "Sources connected to the SHINE program... indicate that much of the change was related to discontentment in the wake of the publication of an unauthorized project by a Hamilton College student who had been volunteering as a SHINE tutor through the MVRCR." *The Spectator* has since obtained documents indicating that the project was approved by the then-Chair of the Institutional Review Board at Hamilton College.

***The Spectator* editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

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A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication.
The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

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Celebrating 168 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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Rush process perpetuates cycle of exclusivity in Greek life

by Lo Sniderman '19
Opinion Editor

The first day of Hamilton's spring semester, rush begins. This initial step of joining a Greek society can be an exciting sampling period for first-years as they make their way through events hosted by the various societies to discover where they fit best. At the same time, the rush process inadvertently excludes entire demographics of students as Greek societies are—however unstated this may be—predicated on gender and socioeconomic division. Why, then, despite our left-leaning campus community that promotes itself as being committed to diversity and inclusion, is Greek life so prevalent at Hamilton?

It is because even attending one of the country's most prestigious institutions cannot quench the insatiable human thirst for exclusivity? Achieving membership in a Greek society permits students entry into the most exclusive enclave of university life. This entry is not evaluated on athletic ability or academic achievement, but rather on social skills, relative popularity and all too often on one's ability to fit certain societal and gender norms.

Before I continue, it is important to acknowledge that I myself am a member of a Greek society and frankly, I love my sorority wholeheartedly. The few weeks after my initiation were some of my best at Hamilton; I found myself surrounded by an unwavering support system of women who share my interests, who bring me to tears each day with gut-wrenching laughter, and with whom I share an inexplicable bond. After a freshman year full of friendships that fell through and doubts about my ability to integrate into the campus community, Greek life is what let me find my footing at Hamilton. My newfound happiness about being a Continental is reflected not only in my social life, but also in my academic and extracurricular inclination. With that being said, I still find it impossible to deny the exclusivity fostered by Greek life which, because of my privilege, I am able to circumvent.

The first two steps of joining a Greek society—rush and the bid process—subject rushes to the arbitrary exclusivity that makes some students the "right fit" while leaving others to wonder where they went wrong. This exclusive nature of Greek life is not only reinforced by the ruling out of students that do decide to rush, but also by the population of students who might want to rush a sorority or fraternity but feel barred by the lack of racial, socioeconomic, and gender identity diversity.

Obviously no Greek society explicitly states criteria that might prevent a student's acceptance. When, however, someone who is already marginalized on a predominantly white, straight, upper-class campus finds his or herself in the small dominion where these traits most distinctly converge, a painful self-awareness becomes unavoidable.

This understandable reluctance of diverse demographics of students to participate in rush only perpetuates the cycle of conformity within Greek societies. Those who have been chosen pick the next students who will continue the legacy of white, rich, heteronormative predominance, and the only chance at diversification will come when Greek societies specifically target the campus's minority communities instead of waiting for students to autonomously join the rush process.

Members might argue that the last thing that Greek members want is an even bigger pool of rushes to choose from. With the removal of off-campus housing and Hamilton's increasingly paternalistic alcohol policies, exclusive social organizations seem to be increasing in influence and popularity. The number of freshman girls rushing sororities, for example, has jumped from around 80 to well over 100 this year, reflecting students' longing to substitute the scene of chaperoned all-campus parties with off-campus entertainment like bar-hopping and formals. Having to make cuts is, for many societies, already a very difficult process as it sometimes severs the connections made between members and freshman rushes, so recruiting a still larger group of freshman to join the rush process becomes a daunting task that inadvertently falls low on societies' list of priorities. This logic, I think, is absurd.

This same argument might be made for prestigious universities that consecutively admit alarmingly heterogeneous bodies of students, and accepting this logic as valid does nothing besides rob the university of any potential for cultural diversity and perpetuate exclusivity. The entire appeal of Greek life has to do with its exclusivity, with the sense of belonging to a community that shares your interests and culture. By making legitimate outreach efforts to our campus's marginalized communities, Greek societies would simultaneously create the opportunity to enrich the culture of their pledge classes and widen the scope of campus members that feel welcomed into Greek life. A simple first step might be the addition of a diversity committee to the various committees that already exist on the boards of greek societies (many of which—might I say—serve laughably trivial purposes). This diversity committee could work towards reducing the demographic rift within Greek life through targeted communication toward campus groups that might never consider Greek life due to its woeful lack of diversity.

A diversity committee would not, by any means, be enough to spark a meaningful shift in the uniformity of the members of Greek life, but could be a start. I know that I speak for the majority of Greek members when I say that the Greek experience has drastically changed my Hamilton experience for the better, and the unparalleled sense of community and support I've found within my Greek society should not be reserved for the one demographic that's enjoyed, well, pretty much every other privilege in history.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
The screening and discussion of, "I'm Not Racist... Am I?" **Some very cool people worked very hard to put this together.** **Most importantly, it is essential (especially during these times) that we don't become complacent and that we continue examining our behaviors.** **Engaging with art that deals with these themes is an excellent way to do that.**	**Betsy Devos.** **We should all be horrified, saddened, disappointed... really the whole gamut of negative emotions.** **The revamped construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.** **The plan to restart construction of the pipeline is yet another example in this country's long history of oppression and flagrant disrespect for the environment.**	**The Weather.** **Of course part of me is upset that walking down Martin's Way becomes a treacherous adventure whenever it drizzles, but the other part of me can't help but think about slipping, falling, and suing the school for a settlement that would probably cover one to two weeks of our astronomical tuition, so it's really a wash on this one.**

by Tara Cicic '18

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Letter to the Editor:

We accept the upcoming retirement of Dean Nancy Thompson with reluctance. She deserves rest and quiet, but we receive this news as a loss. When appointed during our sophomore year, she was a warm and welcoming administrator. She soon became much more.

Back in 2005, we had the pleasure of working with students, staff, and faculty on behalf of the Student Assembly. Everyone wanted to better Hamilton, but Dean Thompson did more. Willing to be pushed—and not afraid to push back—she made our weekly meetings with her a highlight. She took every suggestion seriously. She engaged every question rigorously. She prepared us for every challenge we could face: how to ask the right questions, how to hone an idea, how to run a meeting.

Hamilton empowers students to think critically, question the status quo, and catalyze change. That learning takes place outside the classroom too. The lessons we learned from Dean Thompson have proven more valuable than any one class. When someone at the pinnacle of her career takes you seriously, you remember her. She had faith in us.

Even from afar we learned from Dean Thompson. As the campus diplomat, she seamlessly worked with students, faculty, alumni, and staff. We saw her strong rapport with the Division of Student Life.

True to her title, Dean Thompson's life was, and is, the students. She shaped Hamilton's policies and programs. Her domain also included the more personal: roommate issues, sick relatives, ill students, parent phone calls, and student events. Each handled with passion and compassion, precision and generosity, respect and excellence. We remember a dean involved in every aspect of campus life. How many committees are there at Hamilton? About as many as Dean Thompson sits on!

Yet rarely a day went by without her taking a drop-in student meeting. Evening games, concerts, meetings, events, she went to those too. And while many disconnected during breaks, she responded to emails and planned for next year. She loved her work.

We do not know who the next Dean will be. We are sure it will be someone wonderful. But Dean Thompson will always be our favorite. Other deans will never be her, though they may (and should) try.

Thank you Dean Thompson for your many years of service to the Hamilton community. Thank you for bringing out the best in so many students like us. It means just as much to us now as it did then. Congratulations on retirement!

Warmly,

Michael Blasie and Benjamin Johnston, Class of 2007

For Patriots fans, a Trumpian dilemma

by Will Kaback '20
Opinion Editor

There was a football game on television last Sunday.

It would be fair to assume that most of the Hamilton community was aware of this fact, and that a majority of those people built on that knowledge and made the conscious decision to view the game, either individually or in a group. Said game was one of the greatest ever played, and whether or not you are a football fan, I think we can all appreciate the age-old narratives of grit, passion and underdoggery that came to fruition on the evening of February 5.

That's about all the abstract talk I can take. Let me tell you what I really want to say. The New England Patriots are Super Bowl champions for the fifth time in my life. Five times! They capped off their "Deflategate" vengeance tour with the most remarkable comeback in the history of football, going from down 25 points halfway through the third quarter, with a 0.2 percent chance of victory, to a walkoff touchdown in the first ever Super Bowl overtime. Further game analysis is better left to the Sports section, but indulge me once more when I say that Tom Brady and Bill Belichick are now the greatest quarterback-coach tandem of all time, unmatched as individuals and collaborators. I just needed to get that in print.

I'm from New England and a vociferous Boston sports fan. I consider myself to be rational and mild-mannered in most walks of life, but when the Patriots play, I take on a persona that could only be described as a cross between a drunken Casey Affleck and someone who has recently consumed bath salts. I cried in 2008 when the Giants pulled off the upset (ruining a perfect season) and once more in 2012 when they did it again. Then, in 2015, when Malcolm Butler intercepted the Seahawks at the goal line (also known as the Greatest Play in Sports History) for their fourth championship, repeated primal exclamations poleaxed my vocal cord and the tears were purely joyous. I jeered NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for his bungling of the investigation into the Patriots use of deflated footballs and rejoiced at their ensuing 14-2 regular season after harsh sanctions were levelled against them.

Then Donald Trump won the 2016 election.

The election of Trump, a man I find to be spectacularly unfit for office and at odds with my values, would seem to have little connection to professional football outside any player demonstrations that his candidacy might have provoked. Unfortunately, if you are a Patriots fan, things started to get very murky on November 8. There are 32 teams in the NFL, almost all of which are owned by exorbitantly wealthy white men who certainly have some connection to Trump through business, or even privately backed him. The thing is, outside of a few rare examples, like Buffalo's (now former) coach Rex Ryan and Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler, the fans didn't know about it. The Patriots are the outlier.

First, some background. Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has been friends with Trump for many years. Trump has been a longtime supporter of Brady since he won his first Super Bowl in 2002, and the two built a relationship through golf during the early years of Brady's career. In September of 2015, Trump gave Patriots owner Robert Kraft one of his infamous "Make America Great Again" hats to give to Brady, who put the hat in his locker. Brady never wore the hat (it was displayed for just one day) and has consistently emphasized that his relationship with Trump is just friendly, but a few troubling moments linger. Most notably, he said that it would be "great" if Trump became President. These comments came at the very beginning of Trump's candidacy, before nearly all of his vitriol was laid bare, but for many, this pseudo-endorsement from Brady is cringeworthy. Although Brady's wife, Gisele Bündchen, later took to social media to say that neither she nor Brady would be voting for Trump, many, including myself, remain skeptical. That said, it is possible that Brady—famous for his dedication only to football and family—simply paid no attention to the election and didn't even vote, but it's hard to escape the buddy-buddy nature of his relationship with Trump.

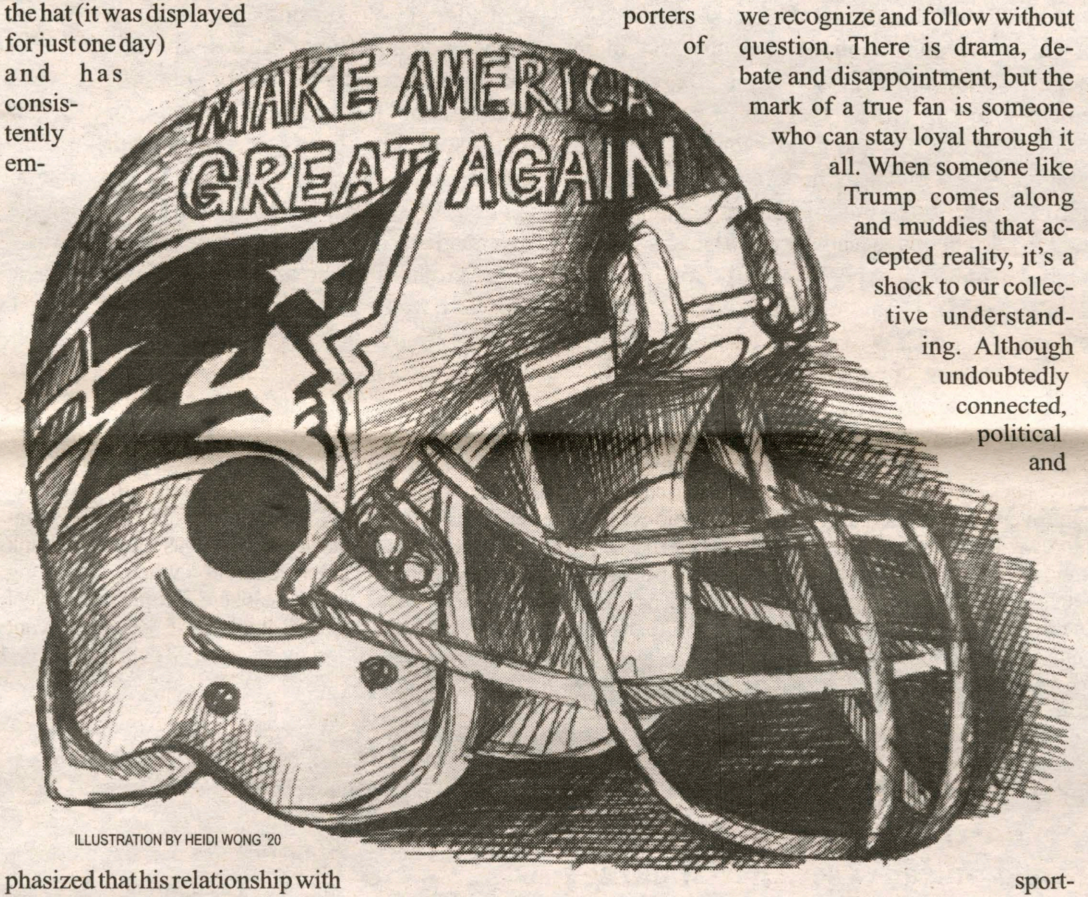


ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

Next, there is no ambiguity in how Patriots coach Bill Belichick feels about the new President. On the campaign trail, Trump read aloud a letter from Belichick that expressed admiration and support for the campaign. Belichick wrote, "You've proved to be the ultimate competitor and fighter. Your leadership is amazing." Later, the coach would insist his support was about "friendship and loyalty [...] not politics," but nonetheless reaffirmed his endorsement of Trump. The President recently related a rather bizarre story about Belichick approaching him at a Patriots game and hugging, kissing and expressing his love for him, while also calling him "the greatest." I have lived with that sordid image in my mind ever since.

Finally, Patriots owner Robert Kraft has had the most enduring relationship with Trump. Friends for decades, Kraft and Trump could often be seen on the sidelines of the game Sunday afternoon and in tuxedos at a gala that night. Kraft has been one of the most loyal supporters of Trump throughout the campaign, going farther than Brady or Belichick in saying that he not only supports Trump as a friend, but also believes that his policies stand to help America. There are complexities here. Kraft lost his wife in 2011 and says that Trump called him "every week for a year" to monitor his well-being. The two became friends long before either of them could imagine that Trump would one day win the Presidency and polarize the nation in the process. This doesn't necessarily excuse Kraft's unwavering support, but perhaps helps to explain it.

Brady, Belichick and Kraft are the nucleus of the Patriots. They are arguably more responsible for the team's sustained success than the rest of the organization combined. Without all three working in sync for the last decade and a half, it's likely that the Patriots would be just another middling franchise. I grew up in awe of these three, particularly Belichick and especially Brady. But what do you do when your favorite player, esteemed coach and dedicated owner of a team that has defined your sports fandom suddenly, and very publicly, support something you are appalled by?

My initial reaction was to double down on my resentment for Trump. Why does he have to ruin another thing that matters to me? Why make fans from a region that soundly rejected his politics come to terms with his support of their team and most hallowed names? Why should my moral quandaries as a fan have to extend beyond controversy over underinflated balls? It may sound childish or selfish, but that's the nature of sports. We follow our team of choice with a unique zeal, their highs and lows etched into permanent memory. They operate within a distinct set of rules that we recognize and follow without question. There is drama, debate and disappointment, but the mark of a true fan is someone who can stay loyal through it all. When someone like Trump comes along and muddies that accepted reality, it's a shock to our collective understanding. Although undoubtedly connected, political and sporting affiliations are usually not mutually exclusive. But there's never been anyone like Trump, and when a relationship with a team is as pronounced as his is with the Patriots, it's hard to escape the feeling that supporting the team while vehemently rejecting the president is downright hypocritical.

Those same tenets of fandom that have traditionally been a measure of unity now lack coherence. Why is it that, as a fan, I can wholeheartedly agree with notions of loyalty and camaraderie on the football field, but question those same traits when players, coaches and owners carry them forward to their outside lives? Why should my celebration of their incredible victory in 2015 be caveat-free while last Sunday I immediately felt a small sense of bitterness when the confetti fell? How do I separate the part of myself that wants to scream, "Brady is the GOAT!" from an entirely separate portion that knows he, Belichick and Kraft either passively or actively endorsed the hatred that now leads our country?

This situation is not bereft of bright spots. There's a small sense of relief in knowing that there are other outspoken voices on the team that reject Trump, like tight end Martellus Bennett and safety Devin McCourty, who have said they won't attend the traditional visit to the White House taken by the champions. I'd be surprised if more don't join them.

There's also a degree of escape in being a sports fan that can provide comfort in volatile moments. For me, this season's Patriots team was a break from the chaos of the campaign and election. Their games were a slice of time when I could get excited again and shift my focus from hard realities of the world to the nuance, strategy and, most importantly, non-partisan nature of the game. Trump put cracks in that foundation (call it my safe space, if you like) but I don't think he broke it.

Just like Brady, Belichick and Kraft, I get to choose what effect Trump has on me, at least as it pertains to football. I've wrestled with what to do, and don't have one clear answer, but it also seems wrong to allow him to corrupt something that I care about purely out of association. And now more than ever, it's important to have some place of readily accessible retreat. I'm not going to let Trump take that away. After seeing the raucous championship parade on Tuesday in Boston, in a state where not a single county voted for Trump and in a region that is as blue as they come, I think many feel the same way.

I refuse to deny myself hundreds of replays of that fourth quarter and overtime, analytical deep dives into the anatomy of the comeback and even a piece of memorabilia or two. I'd be lying to myself if I said their victory on Sunday didn't rank among the best moments of my life, or even that I would have welcomed their defeat, if only to spite Trump and his supporters within the organization. True, this fifth championship comes with moral ambiguity as an American citizen and human being. But Trump already controls enough, and what can be gained by letting him rule over my fandom as well? I can live with being called hypocritical if it comes to that.

I don't pretend to hold up Brady, Belichick or Kraft as role models, but there's no denying their brilliance on the field. I'll root for them there, qualms and all, because there's no benefit to the alternative. Such a conclusion is complicated, like anything else, but also abundantly clear. If being a Patriots fan has taught me anything, it's how to resist a foolish autocrat who likes to flex his power (suck it, Goodell). It may be time to apply that knowledge to the current administration, but as far as I'm concerned, the Patriots are still the Patriots, and rings speak for themselves.

Inclusivity, Binaries and the Gaps in Between

POSSE PLUS RETREAT SEEKS TO SPARK CAMPUS WIDE DIALOGUE

by Adrian Summers '19
Features Contributor

From February 3-5, the Posse Foundation welcomed Hamilton College students, faculty, staff and administration to embark with them on an annual journey called the Posse Plus Retreat hosted in Utica's very own Radisson Hotel. The Posse Foundation began in 1989, with Hamilton College as one of its 57 partner colleges. Since then, the Posse Foundation has evolved into a nationally recognized initiative set on recruiting almost 7,000 Posse Scholars from diverse backgrounds and sculpting them into tomorrow's leaders. The Posse Foundation and Posse scholars work hard to create a unique space called the Posse Plus Retreat (PPR) for members of their partner colleges' communities to identify what is needed on campus, participate in intellectual discourse and practice working as teams to bring about change. This year, the Posse Scholars identified the theme of "Us vs. Them: Division, Community, and Identity in American Society" as an important campus issue.

One of the major themes of the weekend was inclusivity. Participants found themselves divided over how to make those who feel alienated feel as though they are *welcomed and respected* at campus events. The PPR is open to all students, regardless of ethnicity, political preference or citizenship status. Despite an open invitation sent out to the entire campus community, participants felt that the retreat did not have diverse schools of thought. The Posse Facilitators encouraged participants to think about "the other side" through a series of highly interactive workshops and conversations. During a game called "Zukes and Agorans," Posse Scholars and their guests split into two teams, each with its own set of customs and language. Members of both teams visited the other side to get a sense of how the other team operated, and the goal of the game was to see which team could figure out the other's culture. In the end, both teams understood that the way to learn and accept the other's way of life was to welcome them into the team and teach them their traditions. This game was the first of many activities that taught inclusion and put it into practice.

Several members of the retreat challenged the notion of working and thinking within binaries. They urged everyone else to resist the idea that one can be "inclusive" by simply inviting "the other side." According to Ken Lopez '17, Boston Posse '13, there are more than two sides. They explained that "We are socialized to think in such binary ways, especially in relation to gender. When we think of gender as just male/female we invalidate the existence of those who don't identify as either." Lopez encouraged retreaters to take on an intersectional approach to the activities. Another activity included separating into smaller groups that centered around aspects of identity. These groups included Queer, Introverted, and Liberal. Heeding the weekend's lesson of inclusion and intersectionality, the facilitators then asked these groups to merge with one or two other groups to discuss why each member chose to focus on that aspect of themselves.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOWARD DEPASS JR.

Students who attended this year's Posse Plus Retreat discussed themes of inclusivity, intersectionality, race and much more.

The Latinx and Afro-Latinx groups and the Black, White and Mixed Race groups merged, respectively, to discuss how broad categories, such as Black, White and Latinx, can sometimes erase those who do not identify as one or the other exclusively. The Latinx group opened themselves up to the Afro-Latinx group to understand why those who identify as Afro-Latinx felt the need to create their own categories. They discussed the tensions that arise between the two. The Black, White and Mixed Race groups talked about one group's tendency to absorb Mixed Race people into their group, without understanding how people can be both Black and White without exclusively belonging to one or the other. Leslie Campos '17, a guest at the retreat, insisted that these tensions are important. According to Campos, people cannot ignore them, or they will become worse. They cannot be afraid of potentially starting drama or conflict with one another. It is everyone's responsibility to continue having these conversations on campus, or they risk the next generation experiencing the same things—only worse.

Ultimately, one of PPR's major takeaways was to always think intersectionally when attempting to be inclusive. People must reject binary thinking if they truly want people with unique identities to feel as though they belong. Due to Western epistemological frameworks that encourage an "either/or" approach to life, many people in today's world have a difficult time understanding intersectionality as the interconnected, overlapping and interdependent nature of socially constructed categories of race, gender, class and other systems of discrimination or privilege. Hopefully, participants of PPR will bring these conversations back to Hamilton's campus and bring inclusivity into action. Only then will people truly begin to answer PPR's fundamental question: why do we have an "us versus them" mentality right now, and what are we doing about it?

The new s*x playlist

WITH YOURSELF, OR WITH OTHERS, WE DON'T JUDGE

by Maura Colley '19
Features Contributer

Latest and greatest tunes for the happy couples, the single and the ready to mingle.

Good job, Hamilton. Made it back to mid-winter in Clinton once again. Don't worry, it'll be over soon (maybe) (hopefully) (please). For now, though, the Bean boots are on, the geese are in from Canada, and with Winter Break over, everyone's favorite holiday to spend on campus has rolled back around. Valentine's Day is here—and we here at the *Spec* know you've got a lot going on, and that everyone needs a good V-day playlist.

Whether you're ~setting the mood~, curling up with Netflix or celebrating GALentine's Day (am I right ladies????), we've got your music needs covered. Here are some suggestions for whatever vibe you're going for.

First and foremost, no hang with bae is complete on Valentine's Day unless you throw a little Marvin Gaye in there. If you're playing "Let's Get It On," you know what mood you're going for. My work here is done.

Another classic here: The must-listen is Frank Sinatra's "The Way You Look Tonight." No matter who your companion is, playing this makes them feel good and makes you look good too. Alone? Just think of this as Frank's own ballad, just for you.

If you let these guys set the tone for you, Valentine's should be a wonderful holiday. But if you need a few more songs to follow them up, here are some essentials for setting the mood:

- "Adorn" by Miguel
- "On & On" by Erykah Badu
- "That's the Way Love Goes" by Janet Jackson
- "Babydoll" by Mariah Carey
- "Red Light Special" by TLC
- "Un-thinkable (I'm Ready)" by Alicia Keys
- "Til the Cops Come Knocking" by Maxwell.

Okay, now all my single ladies and gents, these ones go out to you.

808s & Heartbreaks just gets it. Recently get out of a relationship? Kanye's been there. Angry? Maybe heartbroken? So was 'Ye. Top picks include but are not limited to: "Heartless," "Love Lockdown" and "Welcome to Heartbreak."

Still kind of pissed? Give this one a try. Future's "Beast Mode" gets your anger, and if you're feeling a little petty, "Just Like Bruddas" is a great one.

If you need something a little more chill or a little more ~alternative~, try The xx's album, *xx*. All good stuff here, though our favorites from the ensemble are "Shelter," "Night Time," "Teardrops" and "Infinity."

No one can deny that these guys are the most indie of all indie bands, probably ever. If you're feeling moody or a little dramatic, go for The Smiths. An oldie but goodie is "There is a Light That Never Goes Out."

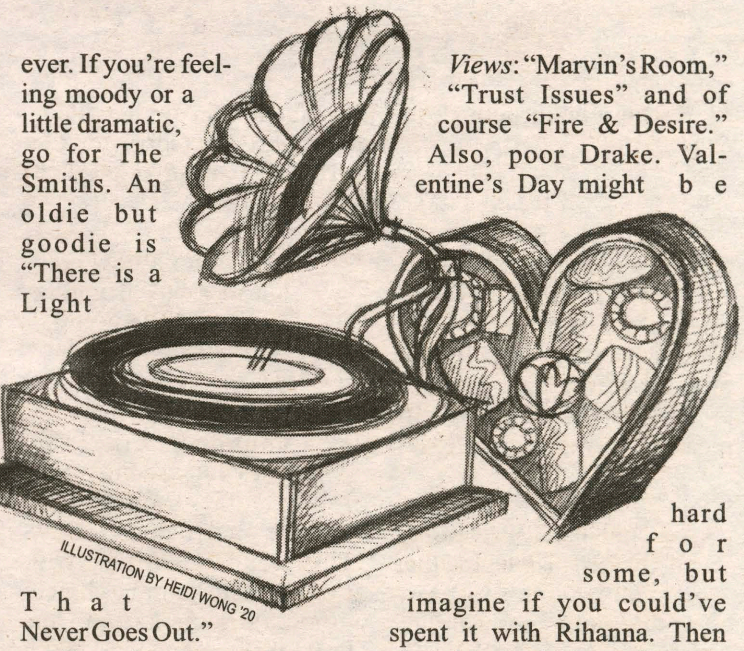


ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

Last but not least, no matter what your relationship status, the two kings of the feels will get you through.

Drake has always got you. He's sensitive, but he knows his worth. We all have our favorite Drake songs, but my go-to Valentine's Day picks come all the way back from *Take Care* to *Views*: "Marvin's Room," "Trust Issues" and of course "Fire & Desire." Also, poor Drake. Valentine's Day might be hard for some, but imagine if you could've spent it with Rihanna. Then she dumped you. Tough.

Of course, then there's The Weeknd. You know we're going to be playing everything from "The Hills" up to "Attention" (if it makes you feel better, Bella Hadid probably will be, too). Some solid choices for Feb. 14 include: "What You Need," "Often" and "Earned It.

SEX & the Campus: BDSM

by Hannah O'Grady '17
Staff Writer

Hi again! In honor of the upcoming release of *Fifty Shades Darker* (the second movie in the Fifty Shades trilogy), I will be discussing BDSM! For those of you who don't know, BDSM, a form of erotic play, is an acronym made up of a series of combinations of words: bondage and discipline (B&D), dominance and submission (D&S) and sadism and masochism (S&M). When you think of BDSM, you may conjure up images of blindfolds, ropes, handcuffs, and the like. However, due to this extensive acronym, BDSM can mean a variety of things for different people. Therefore, drop all previous notions that you may have had of BDSM, including the portrayal you may have seen in *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Before delving into toys/props and ways you can incorporate BDSM into your own sexual life, I will start off with some basic, but necessary, facts about this style of sexual play. First of all, and most importantly, consent is central to BDSM. Prior to engaging in BDSM, it is not uncommon for the people involved to sit down and discuss what sexual activities they will be engaging in. As stated, BDSM can mean a wide range of things to different people. For example, perhaps some people are into more simple forms of BDSM, such as spanking and being tied up, while others may be into hot wax and leather masks.

Due to this wide range of BDSM activities, it is important to discuss what activities your partner finds mutually enjoyable, as well as any boundaries that you may have. Some people may even discuss 'safe words' that they may use while engaging in BDSM; this predetermined 'safe word' indicates that someone has met their boundary in regards to their comforts, or they would like the current activity to stop. Therefore, unlike *Fifty Shades of Grey* may have portrayed, consent is constant and integral to BDSM.

One last clarification I would like to make is that those who practice BDSM are not "unstable" people who have experienced abuse or mental pain in the past, which is a stereotype I have heard several times. Rather, BDSM can be practiced by anyone, and you'd be surprised to learn who engages in it. While working in a sex shop in Amsterdam, I was introduced to so many different people who engaged in BDSM. You don't even need to enjoy pain or suffering to engage in such a practice!

Okay, now that I have gotten some misunderstandings out of the way, it's time to discuss ways that you can incorporate BDSM into your own sex life. Just to clarify, BDSM does not have to involve sex, but rather, you can set hard limits in regards to what type of sexual activity you'd like to do. The sex shop that I worked out sold a wide variety of props/toys for those engaging in BDSM, ranging from full leather outfits to hot wax you can pour on your partner. If you're really interested in delving deep into BDSM, it would not hurt to do some research and read a book or two on this topic; it'll make your experience more comfortable and enjoyable in the end. If it interests you and your partner, you can start off with one person blindfolded while experiencing a variety of acts, such as light spanking or tickling with a feather. It's also important to figure out what aspects of BDSM you are into; do you enjoy being the submissive partner, dominant partner, or do you like switching? Do you enjoy receiving sexual pain, inflicting pain, or both? Once you've tried out things such as blindfolding or handcuffing, you can introduce ropes, floggers, whippers, or other toys. As stated above, you can even delve into costumes, such as leather outfits and masks.

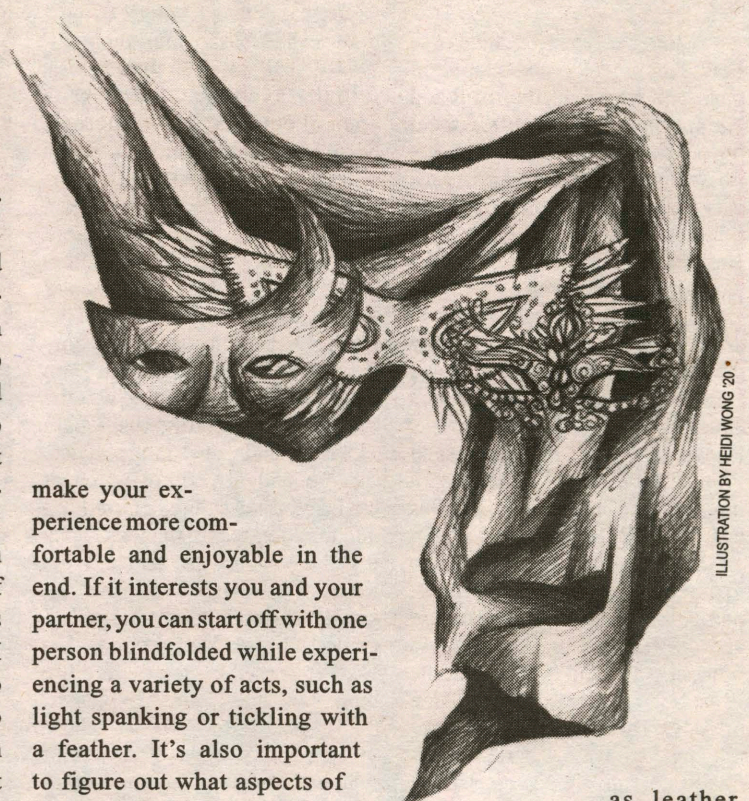


ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

I'd offer you up more suggestions in regards to how to incorporate BDSM into your own sex life, but, due to the wide variety of activities BDSM covers, there is no universal "right" way to practice. Therefore, I encourage you to go out and (safely) explore!

Brainstorm Corner: Romantic Gift Ideas

by Rachel Zuckerman '19
Staff Writer

Everyone's favorite holiday is right around the corner. No, not Christmas... Valentine's Day! Whether you've been with your significant other for two days, weeks or years, here are some gift ideas guaranteed to please!

- Chocolate. Preferably the expensive kind that you wouldn't just buy alongside your prescriptions and tissue box at CVS. Ya know, one of those big fancy boxes with the pamphlet explaining what each piece is and how masterfully it was made.
- A handwritten card. Never underestimate the power of just telling someone how you feel about him or her. Pour your heart out (sorry for the sap). Let's leave it at that.
- You. With a bow. Pop out of a box if you're feeling a little "extra."
- Relevant redeemable coupons. Like the ones you used to make in elementary school for Mother's and Father's Day. "This coupon entitles you to one free restaurant choice without argumentation" or "Breakfast in bed" or "Redeemable for one foot rub." These can get real scandalous real fast... If you're into that.
- A night in. Simple, fun, well deserved.
- A night out. More complicated, potentially less fun, still well deserved.
- *The Daily Bull* delivered to your door on the daily. For those with a good sense of humor.
- A custom t-shirt with a photo of the happy couple on the front. Or other paired t-shirts. Such as an "I'm with stupid" t-shirt.
- Whatever you prefer. "You're so lucky to have me" mug found on Etsy.
- "We go together like Kanye and Kanye" card. Also found on Etsy.
- Apparently the Bronx Zoo allows you to name your own cockroach for Valentine's Day. That would be a pretty dope gift if you ask me. The zoo even sends you a roach plush toy and some chocolates that I would hope, but can't guarantee, are not roach-filled. (Bronxzoo.com/roach)
- Frog-to-Prince just-add-water toy. Remember those little colorful pill-shaped toys you put in a glass of water that would turn into a dinosaur or some other fantastical being? Well, they make a frog-to-prince one for all those single ladies out there.
- Love Gun Cupid Catapult. Exactly what it sounds like. Just don't make the school go on lockdown for some widespread misunderstanding that you actually have a gun on campus (again).
- Something heart-eye-emoji related. Endless possibilities here and almost guaranteed to please. Diamonds in any form will always go over pretty well. Even
- You can buy a square foot of land in Scotland and become a lord or lady.
- Nothing? Because you should love your significant other every day and not just because Hallmark decided they could make a ton of money by causing stress in the lives of the rest of us, while making half the population feel totally alone and inadequate. Oops.
- And lastly, not having your birthday on Valentine's Day. Yep, take that Christmas babies, I win.

Feb. 13: GALentine's day

by Helen Sternberg '20
Staff Writer

The most romantic of holidays is quickly approaching, leaving just under a week to prepare the perfect ensemble of food, music and people for which to celebrate our undying love. Valentine's Day? Forget about it. Galentine's Day is a much better concept; everyone has a lady in their life worth celebrating.

"Oh, it's only the best day of the year. Every Feb. 13, my lady friends and I leave our husbands and our boyfriends at home, and we just come and kick it, breakfast-style. Ladies celebrating ladies. It's like Lilith Fair, minus the angst. Plus frittatas."

Recognize this quote? Leslie Knope, played by Amy Poehler on the show *Parks and Recreation*, first coined "Galentine's Day" back in 2010, and since that iconic episode, Galentine's Day has taken the country by storm.

It's an important holiday, not just as retaliation against the traditional values of Valentine's Day or an excuse to give your friends gifts, but because of what it symbolizes. Galentine's Day, above all else, is about celebrating all women for their achievements, whether they are big endeavors or small accomplishments.

Women doing great things is something to be excited about, and women's accomplishments should be celebrated more often. Galentine's Day, in that respect, embraces the idea of celebrating women and gives us an opportunity to recognize each other in a world that keeps trying to put us down.

Still, we are left with the question of how to celebrate such a holiday. The media makes Valentine's Day easy to prepare for, advertising heart-themed candies and premade bouquets. Galentine's Day, on the other hand, requires a little more creativity to truly bring the holiday to life.

The first step is to gather a group of ladies that you want to celebrate. Friends, professors, advisors or maybe even that girl who gave you free leftover pizza that one time. The possibilities are endless and each gal at the table will always have something special to offer to the group dynamic.

After you have your group, it's time to prepare the festivities. Thoughtful gifts are always a good way to get into the Galentine's Day mood, and a "secret Cupid" gift exchange is another cute way of letting the girls know you love them; if you don't feel like spending a lot of money on your girlfriends (it's okay, you're not a bad friend for being cheap), then maybe just a night in with some snacks will do.

Feb. 13 falls on a Monday this year, and that means that *The Bachelor* will be on. What better way is there to celebrate feminism and bond with your girlfriends than by watching a show aimed solely at objectifying women? Sure, the premise of the show may go against everything Galentine's Day stands for, but the drama over which woman Nick will choose is just so enticing (especially when Corinne is still an option).

Order a pizza and just relax in the company of your friends. If you want to do the day in true Leslie Knope fashion, then breakfast food (think waffles and a little too much whipped cream) is perfect. Or, if you are more of a "Treat Yo' Self" kind of girl, take an off-campus trip with your friends and buy yourself something you normally wouldn't. Feb. 13th isn't only for celebrating other women in your life, but yourself as well.

However you choose to celebrate the holiday, remember that you are also celebrating an era in which women are becoming increasingly prominent and proving to the world exactly what we are capable of. Embrace the women around you and make this year one to remember.

ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

Dining hall recipes to impress

by Claire Chang '20
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and whether you're taken-bacon, or a single-Pringle, love in the form of food conquers all. Below are foolproof recipe ideas easily made with ingredients from McEwen or Commons.

Cheerio Marshmallow Treats

Ingredients:

- One spoonful of butter
- A bowl of cheerios
- One bowl of marshmallows

Instructions:

1. Combine butter and marshmallows in bowl.
2. Microwave uncovered for 2 minutes, stirring in 30 second increments.
3. Immediately add Cheerios to marshmallow butter mixture, stirring constantly.
4. Press down mixture using spoon/hands, wait for mixture to cool.

Chocolate Melt

Ingredients:

- 2 slices of bread
- A handful of chocolate chips
- Butter as needed

Instructions:

1. Butter one side of each bread slice.
2. Sprinkle chocolate chips over the inner side of one slice.
3. Place the other slice on top, butter side up.
4. Grill in panini press for about 1 minute.

Cinnamon Honey Pears

Ingredients:

- 1 Pear
- Honey as desired
- Cinnamon sugar

Instructions:

1. Cut pear in small slices Drizzle honey over pear pieces.
2. Sprinkle cinnamon sugar to taste.
3. Microwave for 2 minutes, checking for tenderness and texture of pears.

Iced Mocha

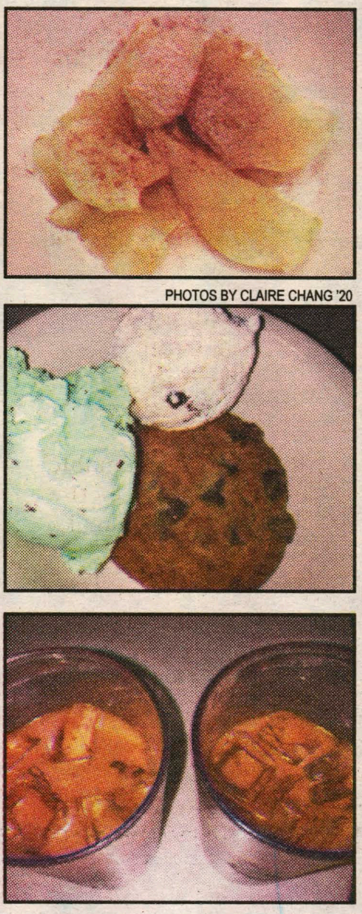
Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup of hot chocolate
- A handful of chocolate chips
- Ice
- Coffee as desired

Instructions:
Combine chocolate chips and hot chocolate, mixing thoroughly. Top off with coffee . Pour over ice filled glass.

Other Ideas

- Ice cream with a heated cookie
- Peanut butter toast with a dash of salt (salt brings out the sweetness!)



PHOTOS BY CLAIRE CHANG '20

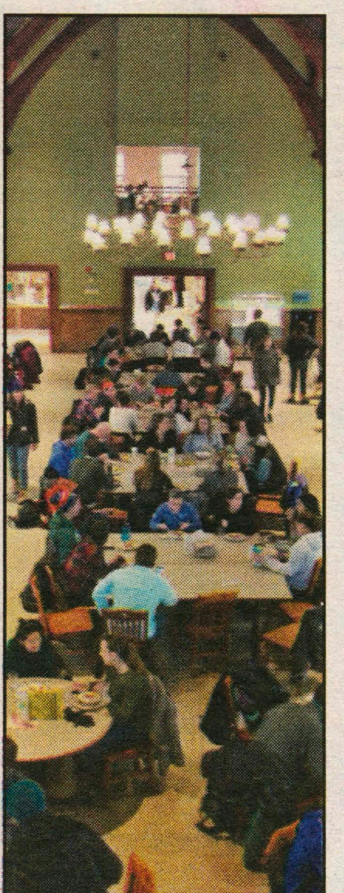


PHOTO BY MOLLY TRACEY '20

Claire Chang '20 experiments with commons food in order to spice up her dining options. On the right, the struggle of lunch during weekdays is captured by Molly Tracey '20.

Choir musical receives big laughs

by Zac Ball '20
A&E Contributor

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '18

Pirates of Penzance tackles issues that surround love, sex, and duty while making the production entertaining for audience members.

Last weekend, the Hamilton College Choir performed *The Pirates of Penzance; or, The Slave of Duty*. Gilbert and Sullivan's satirical opera cheered the audience in Wellin Hall, as it has been doing to audiences since its original performance in 1879.

The choir started learning music in November, under the direction of Professor of Music Rob Kolb, and their hard work really showed in the ensemble's performance. The show follows Frederic (Benjamin Joseph Goldman '17), as he is freed from his indentured servitude and enters into the world. Apprenticed to a group of tender-hearted and lively pirates, the only woman to ever be in Frederic's life is Ruth (Adelaide Fuller '17). However, Frederic is soon captivated by all the beautiful Wards–more beautiful than Ruth–when he realizes all that he has been deprived of.

Soon after Frederic encounters the Wards, he meets his love interest Mabel (Catherine Macleod Daigle '17). Daigle's operatic, soprano voice was beautiful in their love ballad, "Stay, Frederic, Stay!" Daigle's was not the only performance to impress the audience of this year's annual choir musical, though.

The two sets—a seashore on the coast of Cornwall and a ruined chapel by moonlight—allowed for captivating moments, from ensemble numbers to duets between lovers Frederic and Mabel.

For a while, Frederic and Mabel are blissfully happy, and so is the audience. It is clear, though, that the pirates do not want to let Frederic go so easily, for they go to extreme measures to persuade him to stay. They attack the Wards' father, Major-General Stanley (Jakob Martin Kraft '17), but only after Kraft performs the famously reproduced "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General," and delights the audience. Then, at the climax of the story, The Pirate King (Matthew A. Reinemann '17) makes one last attempt to prolong Frederic's apprenticeship.

Ruth loves Frederic and goes with The Pirate King to tell Frederic that he is still technically indentured. In Act II, the audience finds out that Frederic was actually born on leap year, February 29. This convoluted plot twist masterfully indentures Frederic to over another six decades of service to the Pirates of Penzance. The Pirate King, being the master manipulator that he is, told Frederic that it was up to his own moral judgment to make the decision.

In the end, Frederic acts as a true slave to duty and is forced to part ways with Mabel.

The show brought together issues surrounding love, sex and duty, and made a wonderfully hilarious comedy that pleased the audience. Further, the final number brings together the entire cast and allows for a satirical, happy, ending.

The dedicated work put into the show by the director and the choir members made the opera that much more enjoyable to watch, and makes the anticipation for next year's musical that much more real.

Netflix revives well-known book series

by Tayzia Santiago '20
A&E Contributor

When I was in elementary school, I loved Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events," so I was extremely excited when Netflix released an original series based on the books. The book series, originally written by Daniel Handler under the pen name Lemony Snicket, consists of thirteen novels about the misadventures of three orphaned siblings: Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire. The show also follows the orphans' tale, detailing their attempts at a normal life. These attempts are often thwarted by Count Olaf, an untalented actor who attempts to steal the Baudelaire children's fortune.

The first thing that stood out to me about the show was the artistry of the filmmaking. From a muted color scheme to a well-cast set of actors, every detail seemed to flow together. The director clearly chose a very specific aesthetic and direction for the series, and even the acting matched the dreary and theatrical nature of the show.

One critique I have is that I felt almost as though I were watching a piece of art rather than catching a glimpse into people's lives. One might argue that I'm watching a fantastical series and shouldn't expect this level of realism.

Often times what draws us into fantasy is the humanity we see within a world other than our own. In any case, the characters struck me as one-dimensional, each only seeming to pursue a straightforward and simple goal, and their one-dimensionality bothered me at times. It seemed like they were part of the piece as a whole, serving only to improve the aesthetic rather than exist as fictional but realistic people.

Many aspects of the series masterfully served to create a child's perspective without being childlike. The more I wondered about the one-dimensional characters, the more I realized that the books were written for children from the perspective of children.

Although Lemony Snicket narrates the show, his narration views the situation from the children's perspective to create a sort of altered third person. Characters were either evil or good with little to no in between, for children often have much more black and white views of the world. The straightforward characters actually serve to better fit a child's perspective.

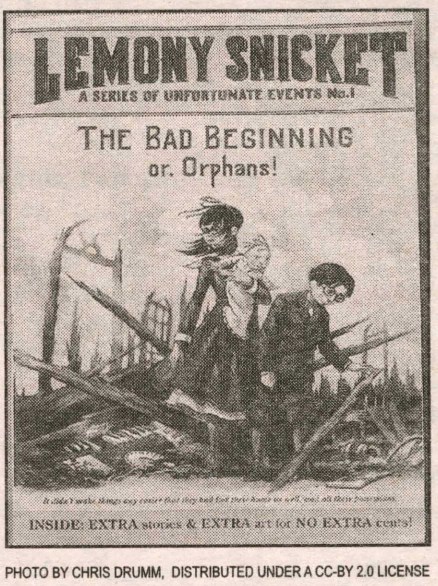
The characters who were supposed to be helpful, with the exception of Uncle Monty, oftentimes were easily fooled by Count Olaf, and unwilling to listen to the capable and intelligent orphans. This further creates a child's perspective because children feel unheard by the adults around them and frustrated by the lack of control they have in their lives. The Baudelaire children are thrown from one situation and guardian to another without a choice in the matter.

Although the series presents an extreme, this creates a child-like perspective and appeals to children by relating to the lack of control in their lives, and their views of people and situations as very black and white.

This series' fast pace creates a great balance between humor and drama, has an enjoyable amount of third-wall breaks, and a complicated and shocking plot that left me on the edge of my seat (or bed, considering I watched this via laptop).

As I mentioned previously, I really enjoyed the unique and artistic filmmaking that almost reminded me of an indie film because of the bold choices the director and actors made.

Overall, I really enjoyed the first season of this series, and would definitely recommend this show if you're looking for something outside of the classic Netflix sitcom with an interesting plot.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The book adaptation takes advantage of the new medium bringing in cinematic elements.

WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:

Tag Yourself

Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
with...
Elizabeth Starr '17
Grace Ward '17 and
Kathryn Hobbis '17

Grace, Kacy, and I have been throwing together a small playlist since our freshman year with the hopes of having a radio our senior spring. We finally reached that point, checking this one off our bucket list.

PHOTO BY NOME RICO, DISTRIBUTED UNDER A CC-BY 2.0 LICENSE

The DJ's of Tag Yourself choose songs that have stories behind them so they chat about those stories between every couple songs.

Typical Playlist:

"Timber"
- Pitbull, ft. Kesha

"Safe and Sound"
- Capitol Cities

"Rather Be"
- Clean Bandit

"Mr. Brightside"
-The Killers

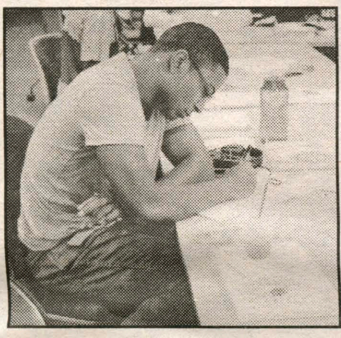
Established in 1941, WHCL is a non-profit, student-run, free-form radio station. Located atop College Hill in the beautiful village of Clinton, New York, it boasts 270 watts of power and runs 20 hours a day, 7 days a week.

BLSU and FCC honor Black History Month with creative art workshops

By Adrian Summers '19
A&E Contributor

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, Hamilton students walked into the Sadove conference room for the Black and Latinx Student Union's (BLSU) and the Feminists of Color Collective's (FCC) first in a series of two creative art workshops.

Serenaded by throwback hip-hop and R&B music, students found materials ranging from blank canvases, poetry pads, and watercolor kits centered in the room in order to encourage a free and open space. They wasted no time filling their cups with water for painting and rolling up their sleeves as they dove head first into what developed into a stimulating and intense evening.



Art empowers passionate and driven student activists.

During this Black History Month, both BLSU and FCC seek to empower students who identify as black with the tools necessary to express themselves. In light of recent political events, many students have felt powerful and valid emotions, ranging from anger to outright despair.

Through these workshops, both organizations hoped to help these students channel their passions into productive pieces of art that will not only capture their thoughts in their rawest, truest states, but also preserve them for years to come.

Activism is a hot topic on campuses everywhere. Unfortunately, only one narrative of activism is dominating the conversation: protests and marches. Not every person is physically able to participate in a march or rally. Not every person can afford to take time off of work or away from their families to join sit-ins. Not every student on this campus has the ability to balance their schoolwork, their priority while at Hamilton, and protests.

Students at Tuesday's workshops painted canvases and drew sketches centering around topics such as the call for unity between black and Latinx people, queerness in the black community, and black music as an act of resistance.

Though all of these topics are calling for an active approach to solving societal issues such as ethnic conflicts, homophobia and freedom of speech, these students chose to use art as their channel to communicate their concerns to the campus. Art is often overlooked as a form of activism, but it can be just as effective.

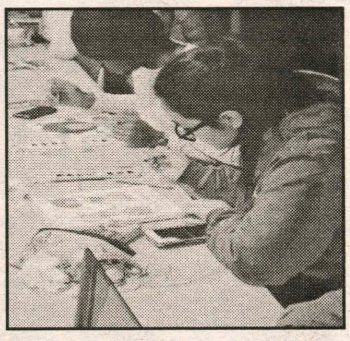
Art is a sustainable, inclusive, and healthy method of activism. After the rallies end and the people go home, the level of passion and emotion present leaves with them. It becomes difficult to continue having conversations afterwards and to keep the momentum up when weeks pass and some people go back to their everyday lives. Some people with specific health or finance conditions will become over-exhausted or lose money standing or yelling for justice for hours on end.

While physical protest is a very valid and important method of activism, it excludes people who are physically or financially unable to participate.

In addition to including more varieties of people, art is also a form of self-care. Self-care is activism in itself because it allows a person being systemically oppressed to resist the temptation to overwork themselves and prevent any physical participation in the future. Students at the workshop also created art centering around Black beauty and its maintenance, family, and historical successes.

These pieces will help members of the Hamilton community, particularly those who identify as black, remember their greatness and help to uplift them if the long journey to justice has begun to wear them down.

By capturing these moments of raw emotions and publicly displaying them later on in the month during pop-up exhibits, BLSU and FCC hope to reignite the flames that people had at the Women's March, after the recent executive orders, and after the election. Even people who did not react strongly or participate in any of those events will be able to interpret these moments of fury, hopelessness, and discouragement and begin to ask questions.



PHOTOS BY CIMONE JORDAN '19

Students celebrate Black History Month with art.

Hopefully, these questions will spark important dialogue on campus and allow people to strategize new ways of coming together and addressing the concerns of our community.

Symphor!a Returns!

A week from this Sunday at 3 p.m. in Wellin Hall, Conductor Lawrence Loh and violinist Elina Vähälä will be performing Corigiliano's *The Red Violin Concerto*, Mackey's *Readline Tango*, Barber's Symphony No. 1 and Gershwin's *An American in Paris*.

The Oscar-winning score by John Corigliano mesmerized audiences from its first appearance in the 1938 film *The Red Violin*, directed by Francois Girard. Corigliano created a number of complementary works of the score for violin solo, piano, piano and violin and violin and orchestra. Vähälä will be playing a violin concerto based off of another expansion on that original theme that Corigiliano produced in 2003. According to the program notes for the performance, this concerto has become something of a signature piece for Vähälä.

Another work that will be performed, *Redline Tango* (2003) by contemporary composer John Mackey, is a somewhat more light-hearted piece and is opening the performance. George Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, a jazz-influenced symphony composed in 1928 will be closing the performance on a high note.

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Elina Vähälä performs at the Nobel Peace prize Concert in 2008.

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Men's and Women's squash teams play last home matches this weekend

*from **Squash** page 16*

matches on Saturday. Their morning match was against Wesleyan University. Wesleyan was the eighth seed in the tournament and 24th according to the C.S.A. rankings. This was the third match between the two teams. The teams split their first two meetings, with the Continentals winning the first 5-4, but losing the second 6-3. The rubber match of the series was another tight contest. Unfortunately, Hamilton fell 5-4. Charlotte Zonis '19 and Jadow both won their matches in just three games. Zonis outlasted her opponent to gain the victory in her first game, 14-12 and then gave up a total of just 11 points in the next two games combined. Perry Von Stade '17 lost her first game, but battled back to win the next three. Katherine Bauer '18 also won her match in four games.

The Continentals' second match on Saturday was against Connecticut College. The Camels are ranked 29th in the nation. The Continentals made sure to end their weekend on a good note. They dominated their competition, winning the match 7-2. Lillie Simourian '17, Alex Regan '17, Bauer and Jadow won in three straight games. This completed the weekend sweep for Jadow as she won all three of her matches. Zonis and Stade won their matches in four games, while Molly Pivirotto '18 won in five. It was a back and forth affair: she lost the first and third games but won the second, fourth, and crucial fifth. The women's team finished in tenth place in the conference.

On Saturday, the Hamilton men's team played Tufts University and Connecticut College. The Tufts Jumbos were 28th in C.S.A. rankings and ninth in the conference, exactly one spot above the Continentals in both. In December, the first time the two teams squared off, the Continentals were able to pull out a 6-3 victory. However, this time around the score flipped, and the Jumbos won 6-3. The match was very close the entire time. When asked about the match, Head Coach Jamie King said, "Our men's match with Tufts hinged on three matches at the #2 (Sondhi), #4 (Tristan Chaix '20), and #8 (Atticus Jones '19) positions that we lost in close five game matches. The guys fought hard with great energy provided by the senior captains Tucker Hamlin, Sam Matlick, and Mark Sperry." Coach King understands that squash is a game of inches and is not dwelling on the loss: "That is squash; things can go either way." Colin O'Dowd '19 and Hamlin swept their matches. Nicholas Conzelman '20 lost his first game, but rallied to win the next three straight.

> **"...we lost in close five-game matches... That is squash; things can go either way."**
>
> —*Coach Jamie King*

The Continentals used their first match as motivation and came out with fire for their second match of the day against 30th-ranked Connecticut College. Hamilton won 6-3 and dominated in many games. Sondhi, Hamlin, Conzelman, and Ruth won in just three games. It was a great day for Hamlin as he won both his matches in three straight games. Chaix and Jones both won in four games. By winning their final match of the tournament, the Continentals earned tenth place in the conference.

When asked about the future, Coach King, who is the head coach of both the men's and womens' teams, said, "The men's team has a cohort of first-years that have shown great improvement and will serve as the positive core of the team in the future. The women's team has shown tremendous cohesiveness and camaraderie this season despite mixed results on the scoreboard. I am proud of the improvement of all the players; many had to assume unfamiliar starting roles this season." Next Saturday Hamilton will host both Men's and Women's matches against Connecticut College and Bard. On Sunday, the women's team hosts Colgate. This is the last time this season that the Continentals will be playing at the Little Squash Center.

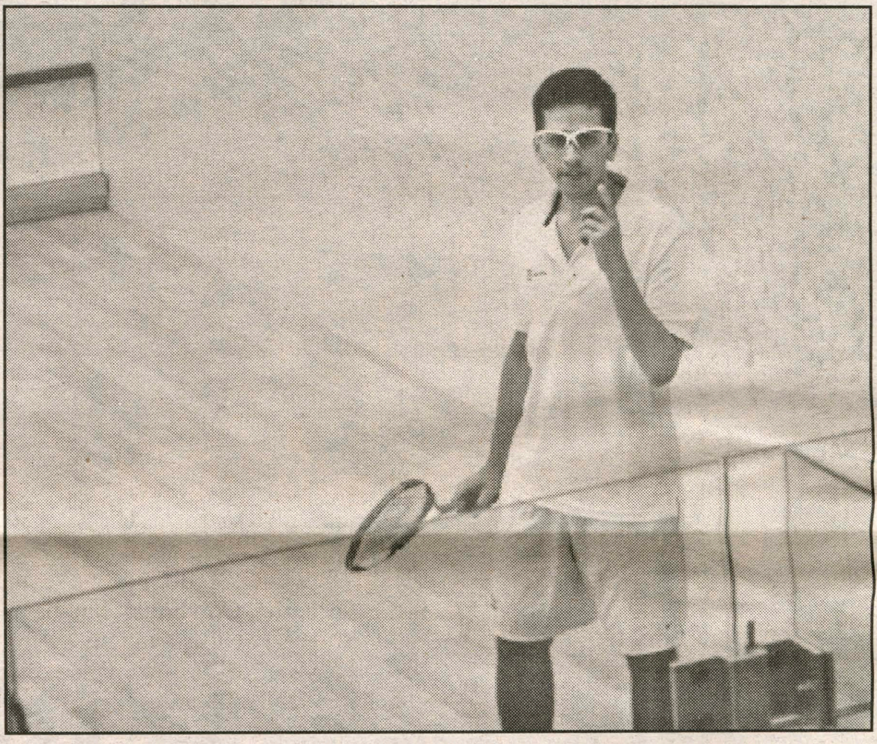

PHOTO BY BEN MITTMAN '18

Callum Sondhi '20 celebrates after winning a point.

Women's hockey in second place in NESCAC with four games to place

*from **W. Hockey** page 16*

goal, with the help of a pass from Megan Ahern '17. Much of the Continentals' success is due to Walther who managed to keep Bowdoin scoreless throughout the final 33:23 and ended up with 16 saves.

Maddie Carras '17 shared her thoughts on the thrilling series and the women's aspirations for the remainder of the season. "Going into this weekend, we really wanted to capitalize on our new and improved power plays which we debuted with much success at Middlebury last week. As of Saturday they're still looking strong!" Carras also added that, "A season-long goal has been to score the first goal in every game in order to swing the momentum in our direction. Although we didn't meet that goal this weekend, our epic Saturday comeback was still pretty sweet. Even though we had two difficult games, we managed to stay chipper and supportive on the bench." As for the remainder of the season, Carras mentioned a little bit of their strategy, saying, "for the remainder of regular season we plan to dominate Amherst and Conn with smiles on our faces and vengeance in our hearts."

The Continentals host Amherst College on Friday February 10 at 7 p.m. and again on Saturday, February 11 at 3 p.m. at the Russell Sage Rink. Saturday will be Senior Day, where the five senior players will take the ice for the final time of their Hamilton careers at Sage Rink. At the moment, Hamilton is 12-6-2 overall and ranked eighth in the nation according to the USCHO.com poll, while Amherst is 10-5-4 and currently is fourth in the conference.

The final series of the season will pit the Continentals against Connecticut College, the current first place team in the NESCAC. Hamilton is seeking positive results from two tough opponents to secure a home playoff game at Sage Rink.

PHOTO BY JADE THOMAS '20

Katie Parkman '17 fights for the puck against a Bowdoin defender.

Obnoxious Patriots fans ruin otherwise phenomenal Super Bowl

by Levi Lorenzo '19
Sports editor

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. For Falcons' fans, that is. For three-plus quarters on Sunday evening, no one was having more fun than Falcons fans, except probably anyone who hates the Patriots or their fan base. There is no better feeling that watching Pats fans sulk as their team loses. Alternatively, there is no worse feeling than the annoying barrage of Pats fans bragging about how great "they" are, while using first person pronouns about an accomplishment that had absolutely nothing to do with. That is the scene that I have witnessed since James White broke the plane of the goal line in Overtime to secure the Pats' fifth Super Bowl victory. Going to class on Monday morning as a non-Pats fan was like what I imagine it would be to wake up as a Democrat in rural Texas the morning after Donald Trump's election. The difference is that not even Trump supporters are as obnoxious as Pats fans. I think Bill Belichick is a football genius, in spite of his Wesleyan education, and I respect Tom Brady and company's football talent and perseverance. The game was a gritty display of toughness; it was an incredible comeback and one of the best Super Bowls ever. Sadly, Pats fans ruin the greatness of this event. I will not remember this game as great football. All I associate with Super Bowl LI is obnoxious, whiny Pats fans sulking for three quarters and then rubbing their victory in my face. Pats fans must be compensating for something else lacking in their life and so must find something to boost their ego. At the end of the day, Brady gets to go home to his beautiful wife and bask in the glory of the five rings on his fingers, while everyone else must wake up Monday morning and go on with their lives. Me, I will take the achievements I have earned. I hope you enjoy riding the coattails of the men who actually worked hard for a championship and I hope you feel good about yourselves making everyone hate you.

The problem with the Patriots is not the team but their fans. As much as it pains me to say this, I envy Tom Brady. I would love to say that I despise Brady because of who he is as a person but that really means that he is the person I want to be, minus the uggs. He is a five-time Super Bowl Champion and is the greatest quarterback of all-time. He is, I will admit it, a good-looking guy and his wife is absolutely gorgeous. I should have nothing but respect for this man, but his image is ruined by his fan base. When you are truly great at something, you do not have to tell people, they just know; Brady knows this. His fans, however, will incessantly brag about him and defend his legacy as if people who are not Patriots fans cannot read a stat sheet. As a Giants fan I hate the Cowboys, because they are division rivals but also because Jerry Jones is a repugnant human being; however, I do not have an issue with the Cowboys' fan base.

Why are Patriots fans so awful, then? Maybe it is because Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire are the fifth, sixth, and seventh wealthiest states in the nation, respectively. Combine this with the success of Boston sports teams over our lifetimes and you get the most spoiled fan base in the country. This generation of Boston sports fans has unfair expectations about success. The Patriots won the Super Bowl in 2002 and 2003, the Red Sox won the Series in 2004, the Patriots won again in '05, the Sox in '07, the Celtics in '08, the Bruins in '11, the Sox again in '13, and finally the Patriots in '15 and again last Sunday. Boston fans will tell you it is just envy, but Millennial Boston sports fans are ungracious winners and losers. When their teams lose, they accept no sympathy because non-Pats fans apparently "don't understand what it's like to lose when you're used to winning all the time" and deflect all criticism. Then, when they win, they gloat about their victories to no end.

> **"All I associate with Super Bowl LI is obnoxious, whiny Pats fans sulking for three quarters and then rubbing their victory in my face."**

Older Boston fans are not like this and this generation's fans seem to forget the general futility of Boston sports in the past. Not one major Boston sports team won a championship between the Celtics victory in 1986 and the Pats Super Bowl XXXVI victory in 2002. While the Celtics have a history of success, the Red Sox, Bruins and Pats won a combined two championships in the 60 years between the Bruins' victory in 1941 and the first of the Pats' five championships. Anyone who has suffered through any significant length of the Red Sox 86-year drought understands how it feels to lose. When you have suffered, when you have lost you have empathy and, thus, sympathy.

The lack of suffering, in conjunction with the ubiquitous presence of sports in our modern lives, makes Pats fans unbearable. Professional sports used to be an escape, now they consume people's lives. With the constant presence of social media, along with a general ignorance of and ambivalence towards real-world issues, professional sports occupy much of the lives of fans of our generation. Millennials live and die by their sports teams; an attack on one's team is perceived as an attack on him or her as an individual. When one is worried about putting food on the table or being attacked by the Soviets, sports tend to matter less. Privilege and sheltering have prevented young Pats fans, along with fans of other teams, from realizing how meaningless professional sports are in the grander scheme of the world. These fans feed off of Barstool Sports, an organization that earns its profit making fun of other sports team and objectifying women. The Wikipedia page for Barstool describes it as a "...satirical sports and men's lifestyle blog..." however, it would more accurately be described as a boy's lifestyle blog. While they may be merely exploiting a market, I hope they can live with the fact that they make no positive contribution to society and, quite frankly, their website is filth. Grow up, Dave Portnoy (founder of Barstool). In a world with so many legitimate problems, Barstool sends the wrong message to young Americans.

In closing, Pats fans deserve all the hatred they get and I assume most Pats fans do not really care. But heed warning, one day Tom Brady will retire and one day the Pats will no longer be the cream of the crop in the NFL. When that happens, do not come crying to me for sympathy.

Brady solidifies status as the greatest ever as Patriots exact revenge on Goodell

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports editor

Coming from Minnesota, the Green Bay Packers remain the true antagonists of the NFL. Everytime I see a smug Aaron Rodgers smirking into the camera after executing an inconceivable escape from the pocket to find a wide open no-name receiver streaking down the field, I feel ill. It was not until I came to Hamilton that I began to understand the cult of the Patriots and the hatred towards Brady and his hoodie-sporting genius on the sideline calling the shots. I now feel a similar sickness when I witness Brady tear apart a helpless zone defense, or when a previously irrelevant University of Wisconsin running back becomes Bill Belichick's primary tool for leading the most miraculous comeback in Super Bowl history.

Yet, I nearly applauded as James White plunged across the goal line to secure Brady's title as the greatest quarterback of all time. Brady is the lone player in the NFL who could captivate my interest in a 28-3 rout on football's biggest stage. Despite facing a deficit that would more than double the largest comeback in Super Bowl history, I fully believed Brady would win. Like a surgeon operating with a scalpel, and with a higher power working in his favor like a scene from *Angels in the Outfield* (what else even begins to explain Julian Edelman's fourth quarter catch?), Brady dismembered the Falcons' secondary effortlessly. As the coin predictably landed on "heads" to give the Patriots the ball in overtime, the epitaph was effectively carved on the Falcons' headstone.

Despite my negative feelings toward the organization whose success has been shrouded in a fog of scandal, I respect the Patriots as one of, if not the, most dominant sports dynasties I have experienced in my lifetime. Brady has individually won more Super Bowls than 28 NFL teams. As I sat with my jaw on the floor, dreading class on Monday and the obnoxious number 12 jerseys that would undoubtedly pepper the room, I could not help thinking about how exciting the Brady-Belichick combination has made the NFL for the past 15 years. The added benefit of watching Roger Goodell, the most despicable dictator in sports, forced to shake hands with the very man he targeted relentlessly all while repeatedly botching domestic violence cases, cemented this as one of the most entertaining spectacles in the history of football.

Congratulations Patriots fans across campus and New England, but let someone else have a turn next year. Boston has had enough success to last a lifetime. As my co-editor Levi Lorenzo '19 pointed out in his piece "Obnoxious Patriots fans ruin otherwise phenomenal Super Bowl," Bostonians should be content with 10 titles in the past 15 years in the big-four professional sports. Just as an example, Minnesota has won zero titles in that time span. The Timberwolves hold a painful 12-season playoff drought to top the NBA, the Vikings have played in four Super Bowls and have naturally lost all four, the Wild have failed to win a title in their existence (in the State of Hockey), and the Twins have not won the pennant since 1991 with no prospects for future succcess. Littered across the continental United States are tortured fan bases that are tired of hearing Patriots fans chant "Where is Roger?" and complain about a four-game suspension to a player from a franchise notorious for bending the rules. It truly is deflating to see such a successful franchise sulk in the face of adversity, while pointing out that Brady is "the chosen one" when victory was assured.

SPECTATOR SPORTS
February 9, 2017

Women's hockey splits weekend series with Bowdoin capped by OT thriller

by Mary Lundin '19
Staff Writer

	1	2	3	F
Bowdoin	1	0	1	2
Hamilton	0	1	0	1

	1	2	3	OT	F
Bowdoin	1	1	0	0	2
Hamilton	0	0	2	1	3

The Hamilton College women's hockey team competed in back-to-back games Friday, February 3 and Saturday February 4 against Bowdoin College at the Russell Sage Rink. This series marked the Continentals third-to-last series of the season and second-to-last home series.

Bowdoin dominated the first period of Friday's game, scoring on a wrist shot by Brooke Solomon '19 off of an assist by Julia Dachille '18 five minutes into play, which put the Polar Bears up 1-0. Hamilton began the second period strong, getting on the scoreboard on a power-play goal by Olivia Hawes '19. Bowdoin goaltender Sophia Lattanzio '18 made a stick save of a shot by Caroline Knop '18, and the rebound directed to Hawes at the left post. This goal was Hawes' fifth this winter and third on the power play.

Bowdoin's Julie Dachille nabbed the second goal for Bowdoin, the game winner, about 13 minutes into the third period. With Bowdoin on the power play, Jessica Bowen and Marissa Fichter exchanged the puck, directing it to Dachille adjacent to the left post. Dachille's backhand shot slipped between goaltender Sam Walther '18 and the post, and Bowdoin scored what would turn out to be the game's last goal. For the final 1:15 of the game, Hamilton skated with a six-on-four advantage, pulling goaltender Sam Walther as an extra skater at the 18:19 mark. Barely 30 seconds later, the Polar Bears were called for their sixth penalty. The Continentals managed eight shots in the final few minutes; however, Bowdoin goaltender Sophia Lattanzio made five of her 37 saves, preventing the Continentals from tying the score.

Saturday's game began with the Continentals conceding two goals and ended with an incredible comeback and an overtime victory over the Polar Bears by a score of 3-2. With this stellar performance, the Continentals, who are currently ranked 10th in D3hockey.com's poll, are now 12-6-2 overall and have a record of 7-4-1 in the NESCAC conference, good enough for second in the conference. Michaela Giutarri '20 initiated Hamilton's comeback barely five minutes into the third period, picking up her fourth goal of the season. Sara Taffe '17 and Katie Parkman '17 aided Giuttari on the play. Giutarri's skillful, quick goal gave the Continentals some reassurance and excitement. Then, Emily Williams '19 netted her third goal of the season with about three minutes left in regulation. Williams' goal came on the power play, and it evened the score against the Polar Bears. Finally, in overtime, Sara Taffe '17 extended Hamilton's comeback with her first ever career overtime

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PHOTO BYJADE THOMAS '20

Katie Parkman '17 tallied a key assist in Hamilton's OT win.

Squash squads exit early in weekend's NESCAC championship

by Robert Berk '20
Staff Writer

This past weekend both Men's and Women's Squash competed in the NESCAC Championships. Both Continental teams opened their playoff play against Bowdoin on Friday.

The Hamilton men were seeded tenth in the conference and ranked 29th in the College Squash Associations (C.S.A.) Rankings. They were not far behind the Polar Bears who were ranked 26th in the nation and seventh in the conference. Unfortunately, the Continentals lost the match 7-2. However, the contest was much closer than the final score indicates. Two of the nine matches went to five games, and four more went to four. Callum Sondhi '20 and Jonathan Ruth '18 were Hamilton's winners. Sondhi has had a very impressive first year on the team and is currently second in the ladder. He dropped the first game 8-11 but battled back to win the next three. The third and fourth games were very intense. Sondhi won 11-9 and 12-10, respectively. Ruth outlasted his opponent, Arjun Dravid '19, in a five-set thriller. Ruth lost the first game 6-11 but was able to turn the momentum around, winning the next two 12-10 and 11-8. Dravid was able to stave off defeat winning the fourth game, but Ruth kept his energy level up and won the final game 11-8.

Hamilton's women's team was ranked 27th in the C.S.A. rankings and also seeded tenth in the conference. Bowdoin was ranked 21st in the nation and seventh in the NESCAC; the Polar Bears won comfortably 8-1. While most matches were three games, two went the full distance. The Continentals won one of these five game slugfests. Lindsay Jadow '19 lost the first two games 5-11 and 3-11. She dug deep to win the third 11-9, and continued to compete, winning the final two 11-8 and 11-7.

The women's team had two

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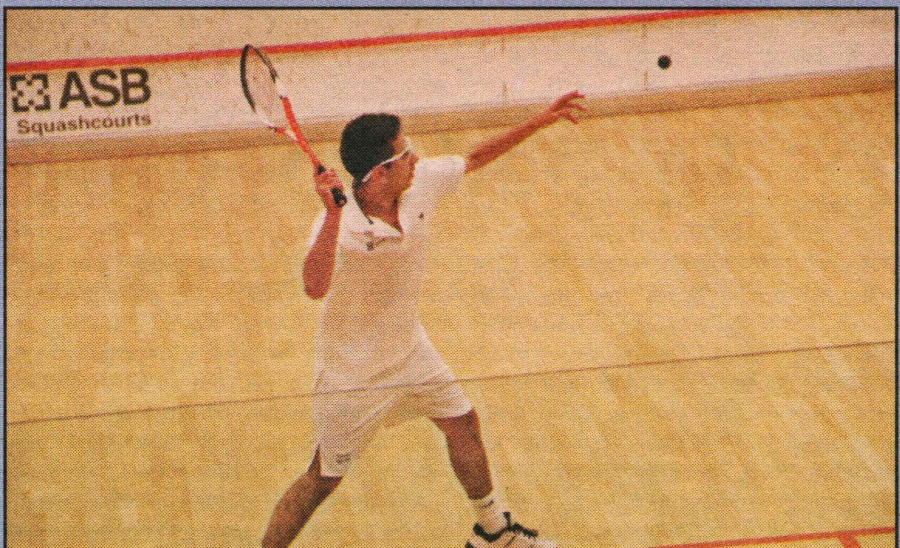

PHOTO BY BEN MITTMAN '18

Callum Sondhi '20 was one of two individual winners against Bowdoin.